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1951



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the

Urban Sanitary Authority

of

EAST DEREHAM

Norfolk

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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

A.B. GUILD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

C.McD. O'DONNELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.B.

Waterworks Superintendent:

R.R.TYE.

Housing Officer:

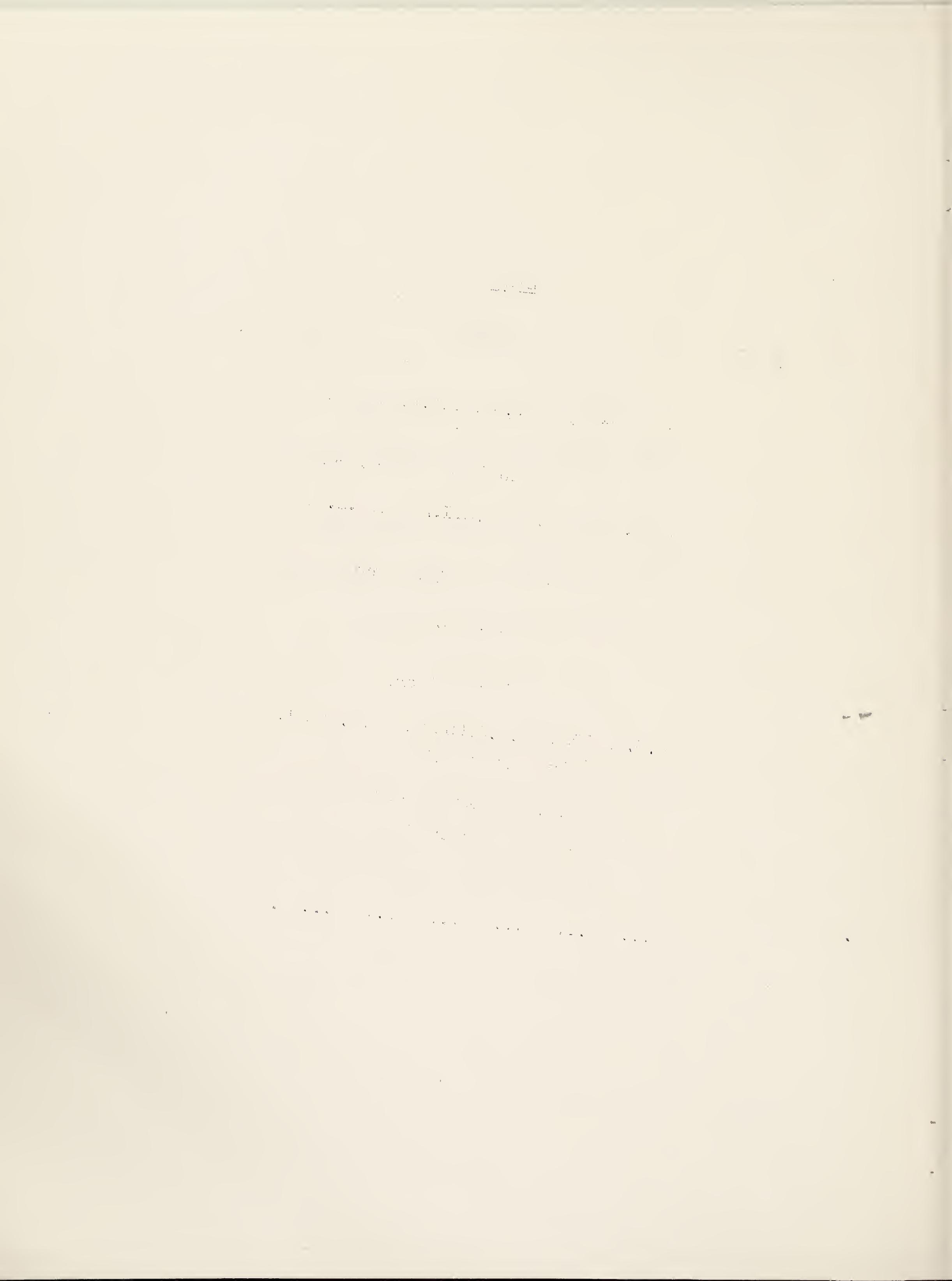
J.G.MARLOWE, A.F.S.(Eng)., A.R.San I.

(To January, 1951)

W.A. DONALDSON, A.F.S.(Eng),

(From February 1951)

...



EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Aldiss and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The estimated mid-year population of East Dereham for 1951 was 6,460, being an increase of 50 over the preceding year. The population as ascertained by the census taken on 8/9th April, 1951 was 6,441.

VITAL STATISTICS

123 live births, of which 3 were illegitimate, were registered during the year and there were 92 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate (19.04) was an increase of 2.04 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1950 (17.00) and is appreciably higher than the rate for England and Wales (15.5)

There were 2 still births during the year.

The births comparability factor - the ratio of the national to the local fertility index - was 1.08, as against 1.09 for 1950.

The number of deaths during the year - 92 - was 28 more than in 1950, and gives a death rate of 14.24, an increase of 4.24 over the previous year. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.5. The deaths comparability factor was (0.83) indicating that mortality in East Dereham was 17% lower than in the base years 1947/48.

The still birth rate was slightly lower (0.31) as against 0.47 for 1950 and the England and Wales rate of 0.36.

Although 21 more babies were born this year the infantile mortality rate rose steeply from 9.8 in 1950 to 40.6 in 1951. The rate for England and Wales was 29.6. It was not to be expected that the extremely low rate in East Dereham for 1950 could continue. Of these 5 deaths in infants in the first year of life, 4 occurred under 4 weeks of age, the causes being prematurity 2, congenital malformation 1, cerebral birth injury 1. The fifth death was due to convulsions and whooping cough

Infectious diseases were responsible for 3 deaths - whooping cough 1, and influenza 2.

There were 3 deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system giving a mortality rate of 0.46, the rate for England and Wales being 0.31

12 deaths were due to cancer in one form or another.

When dealing with a small population, such as we have in East Dereham, figures and rates comparing one year with another may give rise to misleading inferences. In the following table I have given the relevant information under certain headings for the past 21 years. This provides a more accurate picture of the recent trends.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>
1930	5515 +	87	15.77	78	14.14	3	34.45
1931	5619	90	16.01	64	11.38	5	55.55
1932	5719	88	15.38	68	11.89	2	22.72
1933	5702	83	14.55	77	13.50	6	72.28
1934	5760	81	14.06	63	10.92	5	61.72
1935	5807	80	13.77	84	14.46	3	37.00
1936	5797	80	13.80	75	12.93	1	12.5
1937	5820	73	12.54	68	11.68	3	41.09
1938	5730	77	13.43	71	12.39	3	41.09
1939	5788	70	12.09	83	13.87	1	14.28
1940	6262	83	13.25	92	14.69	3	35.29
1941	6640	109	16.41	66	9.93	3	24.
1942	6552	115	17.55	86	13.12	7	59
1943	6404	110	17.17	96	14.99	5	45
1944	6214	117	18.8	77	12.3	7	59
1945	5721	115	20.1	80	13.9	1	8
1946	5800	109	17.06	89	13.6	7	64
1947	5850	132	22.56	86	14.7	4	30
1948	6240	97	15.9	84	13.46	6	61.85
1949	6360	125	19.7	102	16.04	4	32.0
1950	6410	102	17.00	64	10.0	1	9.8
1951	6460	123	19.04	92	14.24	5	40.6

+ Not available for 1930 and estimate for 1929 is given.

The lowest birth rate recorded for the district was 12.09 in 1939.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

168 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year and whooping cough was responsible for 130 of the notifications. The majority of the cases of whooping cough were mild - nevertheless this disease can never be regarded lightly and, as was shown earlier, was responsible for 1 death.

MEASLES

Only 13 cases were notified. As there was a fairly high incidence of measles in 1950 it is probable that, if the customary two year cycle is followed, there will be a much higher attack rate in 1952.

SCARLET FEVER

This continues in a very mild form - the rash may be of such an evanescent character that there is sometimes doubt about the diagnosis.

INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS

Only two cases were notified as compared with 28 cases in 1950. No satisfactory reason can be given for the virtual disappearance of this entity.

PNEUMONIA

The number of notifications - 15 - was about the average for the past years. No deaths were attributable to pneumonia - a result which can be ascribed to the recent advances in treatment by modern drugs.

POLIOMYELITIS

No cases were notified in 1951. It must be pointed out, however, that the incidence of this disease was very low over the whole of the country in the same period.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	Total Cases					Notification Rate per 1,000 Population	
	1951	1950	1949	1948	Admitted to Hospital	E.D.U.D.C.	E. & W.
Scarlet Fever	2	3	2	1	-	0.31	1.11
Measles	13	91	7	183	1	2.01	14.07
Whooping Cough	130	18	1	39	6	20.1	3.87
Pneumonia	15	5	21	11	3	2.32	0.99
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	0.62	0.14
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	2	1	-	-	-	0.03
Infectious hepatitis	2	38	8	1	-	0.31	
Dysentery	-	1	26	-	-	-	
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	1	3	1	8 +	10.66 +
Poliomyelitis & polio-encephalitis	-	4	1	-	-	-	0.05
Food poisoning	1	1	-	-	-	0.15	0.13
Diphtheria	-	-	-	2	-	-	0.02
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	1	2	-		
TOTAL	168	163	69	242	11		

+ Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

Six patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital,
East Dereham on account of tuberculosis.

Disease	AGE GROUPS												Total
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	1	2	1	4	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	13
Whooping cough	6	17	22	20	17	42	2	1	1	-	2	-	130
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	1	1	3	1	2	15
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	4
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	7	19	23	25	18	53	3	5	3	6	4	2	168

FOOD POISONING

One case - a girl of 4 - was notified in July. Accompanied by her parents she had spent a short holiday in another district at the house of her grandmother. The illness developed shortly after her return home, was mild in type and characterised by slight diarrhoea mainly. Laboratory investigations revealed the presence of salm. typhimurium.

Inquiries elicited the information that the grandmother had a mild enteritis at the time of the visit. The girl's parents were never ill.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year, 8 cases were added to the register and of these 2 were inward transfers from other districts.

Comparative figures for the previous three years are -

1948 - 3 : 1949 - 16 : 1950 - 9 :

The distribution of the 8 cases by age and sex is given in the following table:



<u>Age Period</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	1	1
15-	-	-	-	-
25-	2 (a)	2 (a)	-	1
35-	-	1	-	-
	Total	2	3	1
				2

(a) = 1 inward transfer

The numbers remaining on the register were:-

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Grand Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.50	12	11	23	13	13	26	49
31.12.51	11	13	24	8	11	19	43

There were 3 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis giving a mortality rate of 0.46 as compared with 0.31 in 1950. The rate for England and Wales was 0.31

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1951 are given below with the data for East Dereham in brackets for purposes of comparison:-

FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS

	Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-Respiratory	Case Rate
	226 (3)	0.60 (0.46)	93 (3)	0.25 (0.46)

The mortality figures for the same period were:-

	Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-Respiratory	Case Rate
	56 (3)	0.15 (0.46)	9 (0)	0.02 (0)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General:-

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
5. Whooping Cough	1	-	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. " " uterus	-	2	2
14. Other malignant lymphatic neoplasms	6	2	8
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	10	22
18. Coronary disease, angina	3	5	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	3	3
20. Other heart disease	12	7	19
21. Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
22. Influenza	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis	2	-	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	5	10
34. All other accidents	-	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	1	2
	49	43	92

DEATHS COMPARABILITY FACTOR

This is 0.83 and denotes that the mortality index in 1951 for East Dereham was 17% lower than in the base year 1947/48.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,313
Population (Census 1951)	6,441
Population (Estimated 1951)	6,460
Rateable Value £ 29,748
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate £ 113.291

MEDICAL STATISTICS

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, relating to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General.

	Males	Females	Total	East Dereham	England & Wales	
				1951	1950	1951
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	58	62	120			
Illegitimate	1	2	3			
Total	59	64	123			

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population	19.04	17.00	15.5
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<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	Males	Females	Total	East Dereham	England & Wales
Legitimate	-	2	2		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population				0.31	0.47
					0.36

<u>DEATHS (All ages)</u>	Males	Females	Total	East Dereham	England & Wales
				1951	1950
	49	43	92		

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population	14.24	10.00	12.5
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INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	3	5

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	40.6	9.8	29.6
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DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME

During the year immunisations carried out by general practitioners and by the Assistant County Medical Officer at the Infant Welfare Centre and at schools after routine medical inspections were as follows:-

<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Reinforcing</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
			<u>All ages</u>	
82	57	139	201	340

Records held in my office show the immunisation state of the child community in East Dereham to be as under.

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14
Born in year	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1942-46	1937-41
	5	64	88	63	114	416	335

Approximately 62% of the children in the age groups 0-4 and 85% of the children in the age group 5-14 have been immunised. There has been a slight decline this year in the proportion of children immunised in the first years of life and the aim - to have 75% protected before the end of the first year - is not likely to be fulfilled for some time.

There has been no case of diphtheria in this district since 1948 when 2 cases were notified.

VACCINATION

There is no appreciable alteration in the number of vaccinations performed as compared with 1950, the figures for which are given in brackets in the following table.

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Re-vaccinations</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
Under 1	1 -4	15 and over	
30(31)	1(2)	4(6)	6(16)
			41 (55)

HOUSING

The number of houses erected in 1951 was:-

- (1) By the Council - 12 Duplex Flats and 20 houses.
- (2) By private enterprise - 3 houses

There was a negligible reduction in the number of persons on the waiting list for houses at the end of the year - 358 as against 367 on 31st December, 1950.

No systematic routine inspection of houses, as required by the Public Health Act, 1936, has been carried out for years owing to the intervention of the War and the fact that the time of your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector is fully occupied with his normal day to day duties.

In the course of my work it has become more and more obvious that the condition of many properties has deteriorated to such an extent that they are no longer repairable at reasonable cost and, were it not for the acute housing shortage, would have been scheduled for demolition. This is a matter for the serious consideration of this Council.

It will be recalled that two years ago this Council did approve in principle the appointment of an additional temporary Sanitary Inspector but the approval of the Minister was not forthcoming. I would suggest that this appointment be seriously reconsidered so that this very essential survey may be carried out.

I would again express my appreciation to the members of this Council for the consideration they have given to the cases for rehousing which I have brought to their notice.

WATER SUPPLY

Of the eight water samples taken for bacteriological examination from wells in the district, five were unsatisfactory and three suspicious. A piped supply was laid to a house drawing water from one of the suspicious wells. The provision of an alternative supply in the Yaxham Road area of the town where the majority of the unsatisfactory wells are located is being considered.

Two samples from an independent bore were highly satisfactory.

Eleven samples of the town mains were reported to be highly satisfactory and three unsatisfactory, but follow through samples taken immediately after proved to be highly satisfactory.

Weekly deliveries of water to outlying districts were discontinued during the year.

	<u>Gallons</u>
Total yearly consumption 51,528,300
Decrease on previous year 784,100
Average daily consumption 140,787
Average gallons per head per day including industrial	32
Total estimated population served with water 4,367
Number of houses supplied from town water supply	... 1,293
(a) Direct to houses	991
(b) By means of standpipes.....	302

A scheme for the installation of an iron removal filtration plant was prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval.

45 premises have been connected to the town water supply during the year excluding 32 new houses and flats at Sandy Lane West.

280 yards of 3" S.S. Spun Iron main has been laid at School Lane, Toftwood, thereby linking up Westfield Road and Watton Road mains. This has eliminated previous complaints of red water.

The result of the chemical analysis is shown as an appendix.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A preliminary scheme for extending the towns sewage system to the Toftwood area including alterations to the present works, has been approved by the Ministry of Local Government & Planning and the Council's Consulting Engineers are now preparing the detailed scheme.

Defects in the 12 inch sewer in Norwich Street necessitated relaying some 300 yards of 12 inch cast iron sewer. Though the operation caused a considerable amount of localised inconvenience, the health of the residents in the street was not affected.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The Council reviewed the question of further conversions of pail closets to the water borne system and decided that since some 102 properties were connected to the sewer in the last two years, it would be inadvisable to embark on further major conversion schemes other than those already agreed upon, until more definite information was available as to whether the Ministries would approve the proposed enlargement of the disposal works which is now heavily overloaded.

The Ministry have approved the scheme for connecting 12 properties in Bath Avenue to the sewer and the installation of W.C.'s, and the contractor has been instructed to proceed with the work. Six pail closets throughout the town were converted to W.C.'s.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths in the district and no reports have been received of nuisances from pools.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

One case of bed bugs was reported in a private house. The premises were treated regularly until the nuisance was abated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Milk distribution has been satisfactory. Two dealer's licences were granted authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in accordance with conditions prescribed in the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.

FOOD

Seventy condemnation certificates were issued covering various tinned and other foods which were found to be unfit for human consumption. This shows an increase of thirty seven on last year which is mainly due to defects in imported hams.

MEAT

A site was selected for a proposed slaughterhouse, plans prepared and a scheme submitted to the Ministry of Food. The Minister was not, however, prepared to approve the scheme and stated that the building of a new slaughterhouse at East Dereham was necessarily bound up with the whole question of future arrangements for livestock marketing and wholesale meat distribution, and these matters were now under discussion by the Government. Until, therefore, the Government's plans were fully worked out the Ministry could not say whether or not East Dereham was likely to be a slaughtering centre in the future.

It appears, therefore, we must be satisfied with the present slaughtering arrangements pending the Government's decision on future policy

The following animals have been slaughtered during the year:-

Cattle	1,171
Calves	396
Sheep	1,446
Pigs	803

The results of the inspection of carcasses is given in the following table :-

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,171	396	1,446	803
Number inspected	1,171	396	1,446	803
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned	5	1	13	8
Carcasses in which some part or organ condemned	511	1	67	63
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	44%	.5%	5%	8%
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned	11	-	-	2
Carcasses in which some part of organ condemned	159	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	14%	-	-	.5%

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	13	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	110	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	Three works sites	6	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	53	129	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.Inspector	Referred by H.M.Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	1	1
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a & b) insufficient, unsuitable or defective	1	1	1	1
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	2	2

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

There is no Appointed Factory Doctor in East Dereham and the duties automatically fall on the Medical Officer of Health. During the year 79 juveniles were examined for fitness for employment in factories, 22 of whom were resident in Dereham.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The County Council's Home Help Service is being increasingly used and now one part time and six occasional helps are employed regularly in the town. 33 households were provided with this service and in many instances letters of appreciation have been received.

It is gratifying to note that all requests for home helps have been met, even in respect of tuberculosis where, understandably, some difficulty is occasionally encountered.

MENTAL HEALTH - ADMINISTRATION

The 'set up' is the same as in 1950, in that two Local Welfare Officers cover East Dereham and Mitford and Launditch Districts.

During the year 10 cases were admitted to mental hospitals as certified or voluntary patients and of those discharged 7 were referred by the hospitals for "follow up" and "after care" reports.

Under the Mental Deficiency Acts 1913 - 1938 one mental defective was ascertained during the year.

APPENDIX

Lincolne Sutton and Wood,
Clarence House,
6, Clarence Road,
Norwich.

16th October, 1951.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

No. 810 C.

Sample received from East Dereham U.D.C. Surveyor.

Marked: 1. Unchlorinated water No.1. Borehole 12.10.51
(Direct from Bore).

2. Water after chlorination No.1. Borehole 12.10.51.
(Town Supply).

Appearance when received : Both clear.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.18	0.07
Albuminoid nitrogen	trace	0.01
Nitrate nitrogen	nil	nil
Nitrite nitrogen	nil	nil
Chlorine as chlorides	35.0	35.0
pH	7.3 (Practically neutral)	7.6 (slightly alkaline)

OPINION: The only difference between these samples is that the free ammonia in the first sample has been reduced by chlorination in the second sample. Both samples are of very good organic quality and show no sign of pollution. On the chemical evidence these waters can be confidently be accepted as quite fit for drinking purposes.

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD.

(Signed) ERIC C. WOOD.

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